

REMARKS

Claims 12-17 and 19-22 are pending. Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, the word “bear” has been changed to “abut.” Independent claim 12 has been amended to further recite “a dashboard.” This amendment is supported in the specification at paragraph 0116 of the published application. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added. As a result claims 12-17 and 19-22 are pending, with claims 12, 19, 20, and 22 being independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing independent claims 19 and 20.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-17 and 21-22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,492,388 to Kawasaki, in view of any one of: U.S. Patent No. 6,811,363 to Minnich (hereinafter “Minnich” or “ref. A”); U.S. Patent No. 4,830,557 to Harris et al. (hereinafter “Harris” or “ref. B”); U.S. Patent No. 5,193,868 to O’Toole (hereinafter “O’Toole” or “ref. C”); U.S. Patent No. 4,826,374 to Baglin (hereinafter “Baglin” or “ref. D”); U.S. Patent No. 4,863,327 to Poupiter (hereinafter “Poupiter” or “ref. E”); U.S. Patent No. 4,875,816 to Peterson (hereinafter “Peterson” or “ref. F”); U.S. Patent No. 5,,558,369 to Cornea et al. (hereinafter “Cornea” or “ref. G”); U.S. Patent No. 5,605,353 to Moss et al. (hereinafter “Moss” or “ref. H”); U.S. Patent No. 6,146,071 to Norkus et al. (hereinafter “Norkus” or “ref. I”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,062,602 to Biesinger et al. (hereinafter “Biesinger”).

As noted above, independent claims 1 and 22 were amended as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, the word “bear” was changed to “abut.” As such, claims 12 and 22 are patentable over the proposed combination of references. Dependent claims 13-17 and 21 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12 and are patentable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 22 was provisionally rejected under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of independent claim 12. Independent claim 12 is directed to a motor vehicle and has been amended to further recite "a dashboard." Accordingly, independent claim 12 is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested. This application should now be in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,
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